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LETTER DATED 2[illegible]VEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LIBERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter dated 21 November 1997 addressed to you by Mr. Monie R. Captan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia, requesting the Security Council to lift the arms embargo imposed on Liberia pursuant to resolution 788 (1992) of 19 November 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) William BULL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-33556 (E) 241197

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Annex

Letter dated 21 November 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 788 (1992), by which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and for the purposes of establishing peace and stability in Liberia, decided to implement a general and complete embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment until the Council decided otherwise.

In this connection, I wish to refer to the letter addressed by the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council on 24 July 1997 (S/1997/581), in which he affirmed, inter alia, that free and fair presidential and legislative elections had been held in Liberia on 19 July 1997. As a result of those elections, a duly elected constitutional Government, under the leadership of President Dahkpanah Dr. Charles Ghankay Taylor, was installed on 2 August 1997, thus bringing to a peaceful resolution seven years of civil conflict.

Pursuant to the Abuja Agreement of 1996, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) continues to assist the security forces of Liberia in enhancing the maintenance of peace and stability.

In the decision of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS taken during the summit held at Abuja on 28 and 29 August 1997 (see S/1997/695, annex I) the Authority, in paragraph 20, specifically lifted all sanctions and embargoes on Liberia and requested the international community to do the same. To that end, since the considerations that led to the imposition of sanctions against Liberia no longer exist and, in recognition of one of its primary responsibilities, that of ensuring the security of the State, the Government of Liberia requests that the embargoes and sanctions imposed by its resolution 788 (1992) be lifted by the Security Council.

On behalf of the Government and people of Liberia, I extend to the members of the Security Council our sincere gratitude for their invaluable support during the civil crisis and look forward to receiving continued assistance in the consolidation of peace, democracy and development in Liberia.

(Signed) Monie R. CAPTAN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Liberia